Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Wednesday 28 Dec 2022 until 23:59 on Thursday 29 Dec 2022

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 28 Dec 2022 at 02:25

Confidence: High becoming Medium in details from Friday.

Headline for Wednesday 28 Dec 2022: Wet and windy

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 28 Dec 2022

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Gales
Medium Likelihood

Thunderstorms
Low Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
No Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Low Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
Medium Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Poor visibility
High Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
FOG					
Fog	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Cloudy	Cloudy
Precipitation probability					
20%	20%	90%	90%	40%	40%

Forecast for Wednesday 28 Dec 2022

Weather: Often dry but rather cloudy overnight with the odd shower. Rain for much of daylight hours, heavy at times along with summit gales. Turning drier from dusk but still with heavy showers, these turning wintry over the summits.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 20%

Low cloud and visibility: Extensive cloud, base 600 to 900m, lowering 300m at times during daylight hours, mainly across the more south and eastern fells. Visibility moderate or poor in rain and very poor at times at height.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Wednesday 28 Dec 2022

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	25/30 SW	24/30 S	31/40 SE	37/48 S	44/58 SW	42/56 SW	38/51 SW
600	22/28 SW	22/29 S	25/37 SE	30/42 S	38/54 SW	37/53 SW	32/47 SW
300	7/22 SW	9/23 S	8/27 SE	12/32 S	18/44 SW	18/42 SW	15/38 SW
Valley	7/20 SW	6/17 S	8/23 SE	13/31 S	17/37 SW	18/37 SW	17/35 SW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	2/-5	1/-5	3/-4	4/-3	3/-5	2/-6	1/-7
600	4/-2	3/-3	3/-3	5/-0	5/-2	4/-3	3/-4
300	5/3	4/1	5/3	7/4	7/3	6/2	5/1
Valley	7/5	6/4	7/5	9/6	9/5	8/4	7/4
Freezing Level*	1100m	1000m	1700m	1900m	1300m	1200m	1100m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

A brief drier and brighter interlude possible early morning.

Forecast for Thursday 29 Dec 2022

Weather: Very windy with wintry showers, but mostly rain below 600m. Some drier and brighter spells. Temporary blizzard conditions possible over the summits.

Maximum wind: West or Southwest 40mph gusting 60mph with a severe wind chill and buffeting.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 40%

Low cloud and visibility: Extensive cloud, base 600 to 900m. Visibility very good falling poor or very poor in showers and cloud.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 3 to 6 Celsius
At 800m: Around Zero Celsius
Freezing level: 800m, later 600m

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Tuesday 27 December. Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:15. Temperature: plus 0.1degC. Maximum wind speed 42.0mph. Wind chill: minus 10.4degC. Average wind speed: 36.0mph.Full report:

A sense of humour testing day on the fells as the walk was accompanied with almost constant rain (sometimes horizontal) with occasional hail at summit level. There is snow from around 400m. Depth rises with height although the actual coverage varies enormously from virtually nothing on windswept areas – such as large parts of the summit plateau – to drifts easily able to swallow a 70cm ice axe, although such depth is exceptional. The snow has been accompanied with a strong predominantly SW wind so the deepest drifts are to be found on steep N and E facing aspects and also in sheltered spots and hollows. The snow was soft at all levels. Above 600m, especially in the morning, there were occasional patches of ice on paths either on drainage lines or where the snow had been compacted. Especially during the afternoon a thaw had set in at virtually all levels (it was zero degrees on the summit at midday) and this was particularly rapid below 550m.

Cornices have formed above steep N and E facing aspects – such as along Helvellyn's summit plateau. Owing to limited visibility, it was not safe to inspect these but they consist of soft, wet snow so will be extremely unstable. Thus please stay well away from such snow covered edges and advise those with less experience to do likewise.

The summit windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) was minus 10 degrees C at midday, so full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat and gloves), mountain boots and equipment including torch, map and compass and the ability to use them in potentially poor visibility such as low cloud are all essential to safely enjoy the fells. With the summit temperature at zero it would not take much for the currently soft, wet snow to freeze and harden. Thus walkers heading above the snowline, and especially those attempting steep and exposed routes (such as Striding and Swirral Edges), should also carry an ice axe and crampons and have experience in winter mountaineering. Goggles are also recommended to lessen the sting of any windblown hail. Owing to today's adverse conditions, many people were sensibly turning back and/or altering their plans – the hills will always be there for another day – and hopefully a more pleasant one! This is an automated email. If you need a response please email felltop.assessors@lakedistrict.gov.uk

Issued at: 02:25 on Wed 28 Dec 2022

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